



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

VOL. XV

MARCH, 1915

No. 6

EDITORIAL COMMENT

AMATEUR WAR NURSING

Ever since the war broke out in Europe, we have been hearing in various ways criticisms of the kind of amateur nursing being given to soldiers especially in the English army. Miss Burr's article on another page, prepared especially for this JOURNAL, gives in detail the outline of the special courses being given by the English Red Cross, with government approval, to lay women and men for war service.

England has probably a greater number of trained nurses than any other country. She is better prepared today to give the highest order of nursing care to her soldiers than ever before, and nurses of the highest efficiency are waiting in idleness for the opportunity to serve. One would think it would be a matter of pride with the English people, and especially the English government, to show the world the kind of service it can render as a result of the development of its hospitals and training schools since the days of Florence Nightingale and the Crimea.

Our readers will judge of the defects of English Red Cross methods for themselves from Miss Burr's article, and they will also see in the Foreign Department comment on the situation by Miss Broderick, a prominent English nurse, personally known to many in this country.

This giving recognition to untrained nurses, not only in England but in other countries in Europe, is attracting attention outside of the nursing profession. Joseph Edgar Chamberlain, writing in the *New York Evening Mail* of recent date, and commenting on the situation, says:

In another respect than the essential barbarity of some of its military methods, the present war is likely to turn the wheels of progress backward. It has already seen a considerable retrogression in nursing methods, through the intrusion of many untrained and unfit women into the camps and hospitals; and

unless the tendency is checked the immense gain in camp nursing which was effected by Florence Nightingale in the Crimean war may be entirely lost to the world.

On account of this situation, we want to make a special appeal to the whole nursing body in our own country for the developing of our organization life, for the promoting of state registration, which gives to the nurses of America a legal status and for the strengthening of our relationship with the American Red Cross, that in case of war involving our own country there may be no question as to the kind of nursing service that shall be given the fathers, brothers, husbands and sons of our own people. Nothing will tend to a better education of our nurses than that state nurses' associations should avail themselves of the privilege which is theirs of regularly sending delegates to the annual meeting of the Red Cross in Washington. These meetings are interesting and instructive; no live woman can go back from one of them to her own community without a clearer understanding of Red Cross work. The privilege of representing her state as a delegate at these meetings should not be held too long by the same person as if a greater number share the inspiration of the meetings, the greater will be the impetus to the work in their home state.

With the lesson of this amateur nursing condition in the warring countries before us, efforts should be constantly expended to prevent the possibility of such a situation ever arising in our own country and at no time, no matter how peaceful the outlook, must we relax the vigilance that will make the development of such conditions possible. The hopelessness of the situation in England, from our viewpoint, is the lack of unity among nurses themselves, there being no strong central organization in which all the nurses of the country are united for the public welfare.

THE JANUARY MEETINGS

The committee and board meetings of the national organizations which are held in New York City in January have become almost as interesting and instructive to the members as the annual meetings, themselves. Officers and committee members come together for nearly a week and from three to five meetings are held in a day, several being in session at one time, or all uniting in general conference. At this time matters of business can be worked out in detail, to be presented to the whole organization later. The smaller groups make it possible to have more intimate discussions of a subject and more time can be taken for consideration.

Of the American Nurses' Association directors, all but one were present, Miss Krueger being on Red Cross duty in Servia. There

was a good representation of Public Health nurses, but the League had not a quorum and could not transact any of its important business, though many matters could be talked over and decided upon informally.

Probably the most important decision was that of the change of date for the convention, from early June to a date three weeks later, June 20-26, to which we made allusion last month. Another important conclusion was that all International Council features would be abandoned and that the money pledged for the expenses of the International Congress need not be paid. The associations and individuals who have already contributed to this fund will have their gifts returned, while the comparatively small amount expended thus far in committee work will be made up from the treasuries of the three national associations.

We should like to suggest that if any of the associations who have made these pledges find themselves embarrassed by having this amount of money on hand or returned to them, it would be an opportune time to make contributions to both the Robb Memorial and the Relief Funds.

CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS

One of the most interesting discussions was in regard to central headquarters. The advantages and disadvantages of a number of cities were brought forward and there were discussions as to whether these offices should be in a large dominating nursing centre or in one of the smaller cities, where the local influences would not be so compelling; whether geographical divisions or educational advantages are of the greatest importance; whether the headquarters of the various nursing periodicals should be combined with those of the three national associations, etc. It was decided to ask for a general discussion of the subject in the JOURNAL. The chairman of the committee will prepare a statement which will be published in our pages later, setting forth the advantages and disadvantages of various localities, as they have been presented to her committee, but as the time is short before the San Francisco meetings, it is very desirable that local groups should be giving this subject consideration and that their preferences should be discussed in our letter department, so that as much light as possible may be thrown on the subject.

THE ROBB MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The Robb Memorial Committee had a sufficient number of members present to transact business and made it its first duty to record its appreciation of Miss McIsaac's work for the Fund, both as a member

of the Committee and its chairman, work which lay very near her heart and which she carried to the time of her death. Miss Nutting was appointed chairman of the Committee and Miss Noyes was chosen to fill the vacancy in its membership. Miss Nevins tendered her resignation as secretary and Miss DeWitt was asked to serve in that capacity. Miss Maxwell was made chairman of the Sub-committee on Scholarships, Miss Nutting remaining as a member. The Robb Fund is now within sight of completion, a few years' vigorous efforts will bring it to the sum desired. It is hoped that all associations that have made pledges for sustaining membership will redeem them annually and that new associations may feel it a privilege to help increase the amount.

Both the Robb Fund and the Relief Fund are to be incorporated.

THE JOURNAL BOARD

The JOURNAL Board retains six of its old members and has one new one, Miss Sly of Michigan, who has been once before a member of this board and its secretary. The officers of last year remain the same: President, Miss Noyes; secretary, Miss Ahrens; treasurer, Miss Riddle.

JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The joint meetings of the three executive boards were concerned chiefly with arrangements for the convention, but two important resolutions were adopted for the associations represented. The first was addressed to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor at Washington, asking that the classification of nurses by the Federal Government be changed and that nurses be included with professional, not laboring, people. Subsequent correspondence with Secretary Redfield shows that the Federal Government does class nurses as professional workers, so far as the census is concerned, it is the Immigration Bureau which classes them as laborers and applies to them the laws governing contract labor. Our readers will recall our recent comments on this subject. The matter is still under advisement, so we cannot give the outcome.

The second resolution was addressed to the National Council of Nurses in England and expressed sympathetic appreciation with its attitude toward the employment of amateur and untrained nurses during the present war.

THE OFFICIAL TRAINS

We regret to learn that the advertisement of the "World's Fair Company," which has appeared in our advertising pages has caused

some confusion in the minds of members planning for the California trip. The official trains of our national associations have not been abandoned, the itineraries have been rearranged to meet the change of date, and one more has been added, outlined by Miss Whitaker, a member of the Transportation Committee, for the benefit of nurses starting from Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Harrisburg. In this issue we give again, in our official pages, the Panama-Pacific Tour and the Direct Tour, both under the auspices of the American Nurses' Association, the principal features of which are as follows:

THE PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION TOUR

Points of Starting: Wednesday, June 9, New York, 12 noon; Philadelphia, 12.30 noon; Washington, 9 a.m.; Baltimore, 9.50 a.m.; Buffalo, 11.40 p.m.; Boston, 11.30 a.m. Thursday, June 10, Detroit, 7.45 a.m.; Chicago, 10.30 p.m. Friday, June 11, Kansas City, 10.45 a.m.

Sightseeing Features, Outgoing Trip: June 10, automobile ride about Chicago; June 13, a day at the Grand Cañon; June 14, seven hours at Riverside, California, drive to Mt. Rubidoux and dinner at the Mission Inn; June 15, a full day at Los Angeles and Pasadena; June 16, a day at the San Diego Exposition; June 17, a second day at Los Angeles; June 18 and 19, Yosemite Valley. Reach San Francisco June 20, 8.20 a.m.

Return trip: June 27, Leave San Francisco 9 p.m.; June 29, day in Salt Lake City; June 30, daylight ride through Colorado mountain scenery, arriving at Colorado Springs, 5 p.m.; July 1, drive through Garden of the Gods, leave Colorado Springs 11 a.m., reach Denver 1.30 p.m., sightseeing tour of the city, leave Denver 9 p.m.; July 3, 8 a.m., reach Chicago; July 4, day at Niagara Falls; July 5, 8 a.m., reach New York.

DIRECT TRIP TO SAN FRANCISCO

June 14, leave New York at noon; June 15 reach Chicago 3 p.m., leave Chicago 10 p.m.; June 17, short stop at Colorado Springs; June 18, short stop at Salt Lake City; June 19, reach San Francisco 8.50 p.m.

A NEW ORGANIZATION

A new organization of nurses seems to be coming into existence in New York City, said to have been incorporated under the laws of New York, to secure legislation, to control a registry for nurses with "side lines," to establish means for social and intellectual inter-

course and to encourage philanthropy among nurses. A meeting was held in New York recently under the leadership of men and women who gave evidence of being hard-working people, but of a type little known to the members of our older nursing organizations. They seemed to believe that they had discovered the cause of many difficulties in the nursing field and to be under the impression that it will be a simple matter, through legislation, to cure all of the present ills of nurses everywhere. One naturally inferred that the nurses in this group were not affiliated with any of the older organizations of nurses, either national, state, county or city, and that they were either ineligible for such membership or lacked the knowledge of the existence of such organizations. They were not lacking in enthusiasm or aggressiveness, however. Their object in meeting was to complete their organization and to formulate plans for securing legislation.

The invitation to this meeting was general and it was attended by twenty or more members of the committees meeting in New York during that week, from different parts of the country. To these members it was most astonishing that nurses living in New York City could be so ignorant of what has already been accomplished in the nursing world along the lines of organization and legislation. Among the underlying motives of the new organization is opposition to the ideals and standards of the advanced group in nursing education. It is an interesting fact that the meeting seemed to be under the domination of a member of the legislature and a physician rather than of those claiming to be nurses.

Since this meeting we have received a copy of a letter which is evidently being sent broadcast over the country, asking for lists of names and addresses of nurses and in which the object of the association is stated as:

To advance the profession of nursing. Up to date we are not protected by any law. There is no law or union in the state that governs the rights or salary and hours of a Graduate nurse. This we are making a hard strive for and by working in union we hope to succeed.

It will be seen from this quotation that the object of this organization is commercial and not educational and is in direct contradiction to those for which our profession stands. We must repeat here what we have said many times in these pages, that as we advance in the improvement of the training school and in the establishment of higher standards of education under state supervision, in just that proportion may we expect opposition from the strictly commercial element in nursing. While we have had in every state local opposition to the

passage of registration laws and to the efforts nurses have made for the advancement of nursing ideals, we have not known before of an effort made by women who claim to be nurses to establish a national organization opposed to the higher interests of nursing.

THE PASSING OF A MAGAZINE

One always feels regret in witnessing the conclusion of an enterprise on which much hard work and effort have been expended. The editor of the *International Hospital Record* announces that with the February issue the *Record* will be discontinued, having been absorbed by The Modern Hospital Publishing Company.

For a number of years the *Hospital Record* represented the interests of the American Hospital Association, whose development in its early years was undoubtedly greatly influenced by this magazine. Since the adoption by the Association of *The Modern Hospital* as its official organ, the *Record's* field of usefulness has been greatly diminished and it seems fitting that the two magazines should be merged. Mr. Sutton, editor of the *Record*, has made a specialty of printing hospital charts and records and this portion of his work he will continue and enlarge, an undertaking in which we wish him success.

GOOD REPORTS FROM NURSES IN SERVIA

Because of the difficulty in getting into direct communication with the nurses serving under the Red Cross in Serbia, many must have been anxious for their welfare. As we close our pages, a communication from the Red Cross, too long to be quoted in full, gives the latest tidings from Dr. Edward W. Ryan, surgeon director of the first hospital unit sent there in which, after telling of the great numbers of patients who need care, he says:

Everybody in our unit has been working hard, especially the nurses. I have arranged, on my own initiative, for better and more food for the nurses, and now that I have seen what this terrible struggle means, I will be sure that they will not be overworked and, as heretofore, their health will be my principal concern. I have ordered them to take an afternoon off each week, and one hour after lunch they must be out in the fresh air and sunshine. This is absolutely necessary, as the odors from the terrible infections these poor fellows have are enough to knock you down. Nearly everybody is infected when they reach us, so you can imagine what a terrible thing it is. I hope you will approve of my action regarding the nurses, and I know you will understand the conditions, even though I cannot paint the terrible picture that presents itself to us at Belgrade.